

2/22/70

Dear Mary (copies to others),

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Judy Bonner, my congratulations on that great labor of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. When you read it you may come to believe that the 12-month labor of Gargantua's mother was to a better end.

With the many bad things that have happened to those of us who are and have been serious and unselfish in what we have, in various and different ways undertaken, I have, more and more recently, come to believe that our best way of taking a new tack is in court. To the very limited degree I can, I am, as you know.

Were it possible for me to get into libel suits, I would, simply because they provide the means of extending out work into the courts, with whatever attention this could attract, thus leaving a firm record, tested as by tradition in our land fact and truth are tested. In neither Dallas nor Anderson, S.C. nor New York could I get a lawyer to undertake this. Had I been able to, I'd have filed a damage suit against Bringuier in New Orleans, and could I have made a record in pre-trial depositions alone! I'd have put the fascist in jail for perjury.

But for our side, there is no free counsel. This is reserved for the lackeys of "the other side". So, I cannot. If I could in Chicago, where Bringuier's publisher is located, I'd do it there. I do not have to see his book to know it is intended to carry forward the damage he accomplished with his frivolous suits so unceremoniously tossed out of New Orleans courts without trial.

However, such letters as this, aside from the personal relief one feels in telling a whore "you do it for money", such letters as this do have some values. They do make a record. They do constitute a challenge. If this one is accepted, it will be the first and I have not missed issuing a single one.

I do not have this lady's address. So, will you please put this letter in a plain envelope, with my return address typed on, and mail it for me? I know you have been in touch with her. I can't begin to imagine the pain you must have suffered if this is the product after you tried to straighten her out. Were I to include one of my own envelopes, it would have to be folded.

If you feel it worth the effort, you might make copies and send to those radio and TV stations that might be interested. KRLD, for example, dealt with me very fairly, both radio and TV. KLIF wanted me to make a special trip there, but I could not afford it. In any event, whatever distribution there is (or is not) I leave entirely up to you. Let me ask a special favor of you, because I am almost out of the special 3M paper for my machine and cannot now replenish the supply. Would you please send a copy to that great guy, Alan Dale, at WQAI, San Antonio, with a note that needn't be signed if you do not believe it necessary or desirable, saying I asked it? Alan would have some fun. And he reaches a vast audience.

I don't think I ever told you, Mary, but at some more leisurely day in the future I project a unique book. The tentative title is "Letters to Finks". It will be a little unorthodox. It will begin not with a table of contents but with an index! Two of my (unanswered) favorites are to Murray Kempton and Ramparts. If and when you are here, you must read them.

Thanks for the extra trouble.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg